Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A prism structure, comprising:

an integration of a plurality of modulators that modulate color light from a light source and a color combining prism that combines the light modulated by the plurality of modulators;

a light shielding device having an opening in a center that is arranged between the modulators and the color combining prism; ~~and~~

the light shielding device allowing image light to pass through the opening and blocking light from a periphery of the image light; ~~light.~~

a plate optical element being provided between the modulators and the color combining prism;

the light shielding device being arranged between the plate optical element and the color combining prism; and

the relationship $d1 < d3 \leq d2$ holding, where the direction of d1, d2, and d3 are in the same axial direction, where d1 is a length in at least one of two axial directions perpendicular to a direction of light travel of an image formation area of the modulators, d2 is a length in at least one of directions of an outer shape of the plate optical element, and d3 is a length in at least one of directions of the opening of the light shielding device.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The prism structure according to Claim 1, the light shielding device being formed of a frame-shaped plate member.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The prism structure according to Claim 1,~~ A prism structure, comprising:

an integration of a plurality of modulators that modulate color light from a light source and a color combining prism that combines the light modulated by the plurality of modulators;

a light shielding device having an opening in a center that is arranged between the modulators and the color combining prism;

the light shielding device allowing image light to pass through the opening and blocking light from a periphery of the image light; and

the light shielding device being formed of a pair of plate members.

6. (Previously Presented) The prism structure according to Claim 4, the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening.

7. (Previously Presented) The prism structure according to Claim 4, the plate member being joined with the color combining prism.

8. (Previously Presented) The prism structure according to Claim 1, the light shielding device being a light shielding layer provided on an incident plane of the color combining prism.

9. (Currently Amended) A projector, comprising:

a plurality of modulators that modulate a plurality of colors of light, respectively;

a color combining prism that combines the light modulated by the plurality of modulators; and

a projector lens that projects the light combined by the color combining prism;

a light shielding device having an opening in a center that is arranged between the modulators and the color combining prism; ~~and~~

the light shielding device allowing image light to pass through the opening and blocks light from a periphery of the image light; ~~light.~~

a plate optical element that is provided between the modulators and the color combining prism;

the light shielding device being arranged between the plate optical element and the color combining prism.

the relationship $d1 < d3 \leq d2$ holding, where the direction of d1, d2, and d3 are in the same axial direction, where d1 is a length in at least one of two axial directions perpendicular to a direction of light travel of an image formation area of the modulators, d2 is a length in at least one of directions of the outer shape of the plate optical element, and d3 is a length in at least one of directions of the opening of the light shielding means.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The projector according to Claim 9, the light shielding device being made of a frame-shaped plate member.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The projector according to Claim 9,~~ A projector, comprising:

a plurality of modulators that modulate a plurality of colors of light, respectively;

a color combining prism that combines the light modulated by the plurality of modulators; and

a projector lens that projects the light combined by the color combining prism;

a light shielding device having an opening in a center that is arranged between the modulators and the color combining prism;

the light shielding device allowing image light to pass through the opening and blocks light from a periphery of the image light; and

the projector including the light shielding device made of a pair of plate members.

14. (Previously Presented) The projector according to Claim 12, the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening.

15. (Previously Presented) The projector according to Claim 12, the plate member being joined with the color combining prism.

16. (Previously Presented) The projector according to Claim 9, wherein the light shielding device being a light shielding layer that is provided on an incident plane of the color combining prism.

17. (Previously Presented) The prism structure according to Claim 5, the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening.

18. (Previously Presented) The prism structure according to Claim 5, the plate member being joined with the color combining prism.

19. (Previously Presented) The projector according to Claim 13, the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening.

20. (Previously Presented) The projector according to Claim 13, the plate member being joined with the color combining prism.

21. (New) The prism structure according to Claim 1, the light shielding device being formed of a pair of plate members.

22. (New) The projector according to Claim 9, the projector including the light shielding device made of a pair of plate members.